



E-NEWSLETTER

CHECK OUT MY WEBSITE WWW.HOUSE.GOV/SIMPSON



Central Command Area of Operation (Mar. 27, 2003) – The Arleigh Burke-class destroyer USS Donald Cook pulls away from the Military Sealift Command Oiler USNS Kanawha after receiving stores and fuel during an underway replenishment. Donald Cook was among the first ships to launch Tomahawk Land Attack Missile (TLAMs) in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. U.S. Navy photo by Chief Journalist Alan J. Baribeau.

Message from Mike

Congress is continuing to address America's war with Iraq through legislation. Last week Congress passed two resolutions: one condemning Saddam Hussein's treatment of US Prisoners of War, demanding Iraq live by the obligations of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of POWs. The other resolution, H.Res. 153, expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that the President should issue a proclamation designating a day for humility, prayer, and fasting for all people of the United States. The President will determine what day to call for the fasting and prayer. This week I will vote on the President's request for funds to fight the war with Iraq and continue our war on terror. I hope you find this e-newsletter informative. May God Bless America!

What's Up this Week

Tuesday

Congressman Simpson will vote on President Bush's emergency \$74.7 billion supplemental request to fund the current war in Iraq. This vote will take place in the House Appropriations Committee before moving to the full House later this week. The vote will take place at 2359 RHOB at 10 a.m. EST.

Congress will vote on H.Con.Res. 109, Expressing the Sense of the Congress Regarding the Blue Star Banner and the Gold Star.

Wednesday:

Simpson will attend house Appropriations Hearings for the VA, HUD & INDEP. Agencies Subcommittee at 10 a.m. and at 1:30 p.m. on the Environmental Protection Agency. These hearings will take place at the 2359 Rayburn.

Thursday

Simpson will attend house Appropriations Hearings for Labor, HHS, and Education Subcommittee at (2358 Rayburn). At 10:15 a.m. the committee will hear testimony on the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services and at 11:15 a.m. the Agency for Healthcare Research Quality will be discussed.

The House is scheduled to vote on President Bush's Wartime Supplemental request. The House is also expected to take up H.R. 743, Social Security Protection Act of 2003.

Friday

The House is not in session.

Washington, DC,
1339 Longworth
Washington, D.C.
20515
Phone: 202-225-5531
Fax: 202-225-8216

Boise Office
802 West Bannock,
Suite 600
Boise, ID 83702
Phone: 208-334-1953
Fax: 208-334-9533

Idaho Falls Office
490 Memorial Drive,
Suite 103
Idaho Falls, ID 83402
Phone: 208-523-6701
Fax: 208-523-2384

Twin Falls Office
1201 Falls Ave. E.
Suite 25
Twin Falls, ID 83301
Phone: 208-734-7219
Fax: 208-734-7244

Pocatello Office
801 E. Sherman, Suite
194
Pocatello, ID 83201
Phone: 208-478-4160
Fax: 208-478-4162

Weekly Website

<http://www.firstgov.gov>

has everything you've ever wanted to know about the US government. It is the Federal Government's official website. Check it out!

Federal Facts

In 2002, the United States imported an average of 11,358 barrels of crude oil and petroleum products per day.

Source: The Energy information Administration

Quote of the Week

*This story shall the good man teach
his son;
And Crispin Crispian shall ne'er go by,
From this day to the ending of the
world,
But we in it shall be rememberéd -
We few, we happy few, we band of
brothers;
For he today that sheds his blood with
me
Shall be my brother; be he ne'er so
vile,
This day shall gentle his condition;
And gentlemen in England now a-bed
Shall think themselves accursed they
were not here,
And hold their manhoods cheap whiles
any speaks
That fought with us upon Saint
Crispin's day.*

— Henry V, William Shakespeare

Simpson Seeks Help for Idaho Dairy Producers

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressman Mike Simpson has thrown his support behind legislation to protect Idaho's dairy producers from unfair trade practices.

Simpson recently became a cosponsor of H.R. 1160 – legislation that would impose tariff-rate quotas on certain casein and milk protein concentrates. Simpson and his colleagues introduced the legislation to combat the flow of certain dairy products that have been slightly altered to get around U.S. tariff quotas.

“Everyone knows times are extremely difficult right now for dairy producers in Idaho and across the nation,” said Simpson. “This legislation is intended to help level the playing field for Idaho's producers and deter unfair trade practices by other nations. I really believe the dire economic situation facing dairy producers requires those of us in Congress to look at every possible avenue for ensuring fair trade and raising prices.”

Foreign exporters have been exploiting this loophole by blending previously processed dairy proteins, such as casein and whey, with nonfat dry milk to boost its protein content so that it qualifies as milk protein concentrate (MPC). The resulting dairy blends are being imported into the U.S. market in ever-increasing amounts, displacing sales of domestic dairy products and lowering prices for U.S. dairy farmers. MPC imports have risen from an average of 111 million pounds in the mid-1990's to an average of 266 million pounds from 2000-2002. H.R. 1160 would close this loophole by regulating MPC imports in the same manner all other dairy product imports are regulated.

“This is a crucial issue for Idaho's dairy producers and I'm proud to be part of a coordinated effort to resolve this inherently unfair situation,” said Simpson.

Idaho Senator Larry Craig is the author of identical legislation in the United States Senate.

Simpson Hosts Congressional Briefing to Promote INEEL

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Representative Mike Simpson today hosted a briefing for Members of Congress, congressional staff, policy-makers, and other interested individuals on the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL). Briefing participants from Idaho included Bob Stallman, Assistant Site Manager for Environmental Management; Dr. Bill Shipp, INEEL Lab Director; Sue Stiger, Vice President, INEEL Environmental Management Programs; and Alan Dobson, General Manager of the Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project (BNFL).

The briefing, hosted by the House and Senate Nuclear Cleanup Caucus, is part of a series of briefings highlighting the important challenges facing our nation's nuclear cleanup sites. The briefing covered issues including the general makeup of the INEEL site, accomplishments and goals of the INEEL, the sites transition to the "command center" for nuclear research and development, and the status of cleanup activities at the site.

"I was pleased to have the opportunity to join the Nuclear Cleanup Caucus, DOE-Idaho, Bechtel, and BNFL in putting together this important briefing for policy-makers in Washington. It is vitally important that we do everything in our power to make sure federal decision-makers understand how important the cleanup program is not only to Idaho, but also to the nation as a whole. I hope today's briefing provided policy-makers in Washington with a better understanding of the unique challenges and opportunities facing the INEEL," Simpson said.

Simpson is a Member of the House Nuclear Cleanup Caucus. Members of the caucus are in the process of conducting a weekly series of similar briefings concerning the Environmental Management complex. Simpson has been a member of the caucus for the last four years.

Iraqi Freedom Update

This new section will give you the latest war developments from the Department of Defense and perhaps items you won't get from the mainstream media.

For the first time in military history, multiple B-1, B-2 and B-52 long-range strike aircraft targeted the same geographical area at the same time as part of a single strike package. After launching from separate bases, the bombers simultaneously struck leadership and command and control targets of the Iraqi regime in Baghdad using precision munitions.

Fifteen V Corps soldiers were examined for injuries after a third country national drove his truck into them while they were waiting in line at the Camp Udairi post exchange. The driver of the truck was shot by one or more uninjured soldiers. Fourteen soldiers were treated and returned to duty. One soldier received an injury to his knee and will be flown to Germany for treatment. His name is being withheld pending notification of next-of-kin.

Early Saturday, U.S. Marines from Task Force Tarawa secured buildings occupied by elements of the Iraqi 11th Infantry Division here. Marines of 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, commanded by Lt. Col. Brent Dunahoe, secured the buildings during a raid and found a large cache of weapons, ammunition, and chemical decontamination equipment. Marines of 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, commanded by Lt. Col. Royal P. Mortenson, found a second cache of weapons in a building on the south side of the city. In the largest building the Marines found and confiscated over 300 chemical suits, over 300 gas masks, atropine injectors, two chemical decontamination vehicles and other chemical decontamination devices.

Idaho Trivia

Last week's question: What is Idaho's oldest building? Cataldo Mission built in 1853.

What country gave up its claim for Idaho in 1819? Answer it correctly and be featured in next week's newsletter!

Simpson Votes for Child Protection Bill

WASHINGTON, D.C. --Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson voted to stiffen penalties for kidnappers and sex offenders, as well as create a nation-wide AMBER Alert (America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response) system to protect America's children. The Child Abduction Prevention Bill, H.R. 1104, passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 410 to 14.

"This bill is about preventing kidnappings before they happen, while also enabling local law enforcement to safely recover children when an abduction does occur," Simpson said. "This bill also includes the popular AMBER Alert system to help track missing children across state lines. I'd like to thank Idaho Senator Mike Crapo for his stalwart support of the Amber Alert system. His public work on this issue has helped many in Congress see how critical this issue is to our nation's children." Simpson added, "Statistics show the first 24 hours are the most critical in recovering a missing child. By making the AMBER Alert system nation-wide, we can help bring more children home safely."

The bill includes the following provisions:

- Allows judges to extend the term for supervision of released sex offenders up to a maximum of life.

- Eliminates the statute of limitations for child abductions and sex crimes.

- Denies pretrial release for child rapists or child abductors.

- Requires a mandatory sentence of life imprisonment for twice-convicted child sex offenders.

- Doubles funding for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to \$20 million each year through 2005.

- Mandates a minimum 20-year prison sentence for the kidnapping of a person under the age of 18 by a non-family member.

- Authorizes COPS funding for a Sex Offender Apprehension Program. This would allow money to be used by local law enforcement to track sex offenders that violate terms of their release.

- Punishes persons who travel to foreign countries to engage in illicit sexual relations with minors and criminalizes the actions of sex tour operators.

Last October, the House overwhelmingly passed a similar comprehensive bill. The measure included AMBER Alert language, doubling the annual funding for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and other child protection provisions; unfortunately, this legislation died in the Senate. The House bill now heads to a conference committee with the Senate-passed legislation combating child pornography (S 151, passed Senate 84-0 on February 24, 2003).